

had sustained damage and the undercarriage would not lower beyond the half-way down position. Despite these hazards, and without the assistance of the flaps, Squadron Leader Almond effected a successful crash-landing. This officer has invariably displayed skill, courage and coolness of a high order.

Acting Squadron Leader George BAXTER, D.F.C. (133453), R.A.F.V.R., 83 Sqn.

This officer has participated in numerous sorties since being awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. He has shown the highest standard of navigational ability, coupled with great courage and resolution. His faultless work, often in the face of fierce opposition, has played an important part in the successes obtained. Squadron Leader Baxter has rendered much loyal and devoted service.

Acting Squadron Leader William Albert George GALLIENNE, D.F.C. (127457), R.A.F.V.R., 139 Sqn.

This officer has participated in more than eighty sorties during which attacks have been made on a wide range of enemy targets. He is a navigator of high merit, whose exceptional skill, great courage and devotion to duty have set a splendid example to all. In spite of more than one trying experience, Squadron Leader Gallienne has shown the greatest keenness and has taken every opportunity to operate against the enemy. His efforts have been untiring and he has contributed much to the success of the squadron.

Acting Squadron Leader John Thomas HALL, D.F.C. (Can./J.25802), R.C.A.F., 35 Sqn.

This officer has completed a large number of operational missions. He has displayed exceptional skill and throughout has set a magnificent example of determination and devotion to duty. His record is worthy of the highest praise.

Acting Squadron Leader Desmond Ossiter SANDS, D.F.C. (102110), R.A.F.V.R., 467 (R.A.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer has completed many sorties on his second tour of operational duty. Throughout these operations, most of which have been against strongly defended targets, Squadron Leader Sands has displayed the highest standard of determination and devotion to duty. By his undoubted ability as navigator and his efficiency as captain, this officer has played a good part in the successes obtained. His services have been invaluable.

Acting Squadron Leader Charles Peter Crauford de WESSELOW, D.F.C. (114160), R.A.F.V.R., 635 Sqn.

This officer has set a fine example of courage and devotion to duty. He has completed a very large number of sorties, involving attacks on targets important to the enemy's war effort. Undeterred by the heaviest opposition, Squadron Leader de Wesselow has invariably pressed home his attacks. His successes are a fine tribute to his great skill and iron determination.

Distinguished Service Order.

Pilot Officer Richard Marshall PERKINS (187288), R.A.F.V.R., 180 Sqn.

Conspicuous Gallantry Medal (Flying).

605494 Flight Sergeant James Mansfield HALL, R.A.F., 180 Sqn.

This officer and airman were pilot and air gunner respectively in an aircraft detailed to attack the railway yards at Bocholt in March, 1945. During the bombing run the aircraft was hit by fire from the ground defences. Pilot Officer Perkins was severely wounded. His right thigh was smashed; he also sustained injuries to his back. His suffering became intense. Nevertheless this brave pilot, tended by Flight Sergeant Hall who stood at his side, flew the aircraft to an allied airfield. As the airfield was reached Pilot Officer Perkins was in great distress. Although the aircraft had sustained serious damage it was decided to attempt a landing. Flight Sergeant Hall assisted to remove his wounded comrade into the second pilot's seat and then himself took over the controls in an effort to bring the aircraft down. During the descent, Pilot Officer Perkins, injured as he was, advised and directed his resolute air gunner in the control of the aircraft so well that a successful crash-landing was effected. Pilot Officer Perkins displayed outstanding fortitude, great courage and unbeatable determination in the face of extreme suffering. Flight Sergeant Hall also proved himself to be a valiant crew member. His coolness, courage and resource set a fine example.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Flight Lieutenant Bernard FORD (144787), R.A.F.V.R., 192 Sqn.
Flying Officer Donald Joseph COATES (169608), R.A.F.V.R., 192 Sqn.

These officers were pilot and wireless operator respectively in an aircraft detailed to attack Dessau. During the operation the aircraft was badly hit when attacked by an enemy fighter. The nose of the bomber was severely damaged. The port inner engine was put out of action. The inter-communication and the oxygen systems were rendered unserviceable and some important equipment was destroyed. Flying Officer Coates was wounded in both legs and about the face; the navigator also was wounded. The aircraft dived out of control. Coolly and skilfully, Flight Lieutenant Ford succeeded in levelling out and headed for allied territory. Although deprived of the services of the navigator, he flew the badly damaged aircraft to an airfield and effected a safe landing. This officer displayed exceptional skill, coolness and courage in most trying circumstances. Flying Officer Coates also proved himself to be a courageous and resourceful crew member. In spite of much physical distress he remained at his post to co-operate splendidly with his pilot throughout the return flight. His example was worthy of high praise.

Flight Lieutenant Geoffrey Markham HOWARD-JONES (42229), R.A.F., 180 Sqn.

In March, 1945, this officer was the pilot and captain in an aircraft detailed to attack the railway siding at Bocholt. Shortly after crossing enemy territory the aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire. The petrol tanks were damaged and commenced to leak. The hydraulic system had also been damaged, causing the starboard leg of the undercarriage to drop to the down position. The aircraft subsequently became difficult to control. Undaunted, Flight Lieutenant Howard-Jones went on to the target and pressed home a good attack. He afterwards flew the damaged aircraft to an airfield in allied territory and landed safely. This officer set a fine example of courage and determination throughout.

Flight Lieutenant Owen Clifford MUNDIN (119648), R.A.F.V.R., 640 Sqn.

In March, 1945, this officer piloted an aircraft detailed to attack Essen. On the outward flight, the propeller of the port outer engine had to be feathered owing to a leak in the oil system. In spite of this, Flight Lieutenant MUNDIN continued his mission. Later, the starboard engine became troublesome. Some height was lost and Flight Lieutenant MUNDIN was unable to keep his place with the main bomber force. Nevertheless, he went on to the target and executed his attack. When some 200 miles from the English coast on the return flight, the defective starboard engine failed completely but Flight Lieutenant MUNDIN flew on to reach an airfield where he brought the aircraft down safely. This officer, who has completed very many sorties, has invariably displayed praiseworthy skill, gallantry and devotion to duty.

Acting Flight Lieutenant George Glen Harrison COWPER (149348), R.A.F.V.R., 550 Sqn.

As pilot and captain of aircraft this officer has completed very many sorties, involving attacks on a wide variety of enemy targets. He has consistently shown a high degree of skill, together with the greatest determination. One night in March, 1945, he took part in an attack on Kassel. On the outward flight, the port inner engine caught fire and had to be put out of action. In spite of this, Flight Lieutenant Cowper went on to the target and pressed home his attack. His determination to complete his mission successfully was typical of that which he has shown throughout his tour of operational duty.

Flying Officer Robert Charles KENDALL (173876), R.A.F.V.R., 239 Sqn.

As observer, this officer has completed a number of sorties on his second tour of operational duty. During these operations he has assisted in the destruction of 3 enemy aircraft. Cool, determined and highly skilled, Flying Officer Kendall has proved a most valuable member of aircraft crew.

Acting Flying Officer Geoffrey Elliott DARVILLE (Aus.420812), R.A.A.F., 622 Sqn.

This officer has set a fine example of devotion to duty. His keenness for air operations has